

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A vernier pattern formed on a substrate comprising:
 - a) a first two-dimensional array of spaced shapes having a first distance across each shape and a first distance between adjacent shapes patterned overlying the substrate, wherein the first two-dimensional array has a first pitch defined by the sum of the first distance across each shape and the first distance between adjacent shapes;
 - b) a second two-dimensional array of spaced shapes having a second distance across each shape and a second distance between adjacent shapes patterned with photoresist overlying the first two-dimensional array, wherein the second two-dimensional array has a second pitch defined by the sum of the second distance across each shape and the second distance between adjacent shapes; and
 - c) wherein the second pitch is different than the first pitch.
2. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first two-dimensional array has an x-axis and a y-axis which are symmetrical to each other.

3. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first two-dimensional array has an x-axis and a y-axis which are asymmetrical relative to each other.

4. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first distance across each shape is the same as the second distance across each shape.

5. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first distance between adjacent shapes is the same as the second distance between adjacent shapes.

6. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, further comprising centerline marks.

7. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, further comprising negative direction marks.

8. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, further comprising positive direction marks.

9. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first two-dimensional array of spaced shapes is a dark field pattern.

10. (original) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the first two-dimensional array of spaced shapes is a light field pattern.

11. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the second two-dimensional array of spaced shapes is a dark field pattern.

12. (withdrawn) The vernier of claim 1, wherein the second two-dimensional array of spaced shapes is a light field pattern.

13. (withdrawn) A method of forming a vernier on a substrate comprising the steps of:

- a) forming a reference pattern on the substrate;
- b) depositing a layer of photoresist over the reference pattern; and
- c) patterning the layer of photoresist to produce an active pattern.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a reference pattern further comprises etching a pattern into the silicon substrate.

15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a reference pattern further comprises depositing a layer of material over the substrate and etching a pattern into the layer of material.

16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a reference pattern further comprises depositing a layer of material over the substrate and etching a pattern into the layer of material, depositing a metal into the pattern and polishing the metal using CMP to produce a flat reference pattern.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a reference pattern produces a light field pattern.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a reference pattern produces a dark field pattern.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a active pattern produces a light field pattern.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of forming a active pattern produces a dark field pattern.

21. (withdrawn) A method of determining misalignment between two patterns formed over a substrate comprising the steps of:

- a) positioning a two dimensional vernier under a microscope;
- b) determining an alignment region;
- c) identifying a pair of overlapped shapes that are most fully aligned; and
- d) ascertaining the position of the pair of overlapped shapes.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of determining the alignment region determines the alignment region in two dimensions simultaneously.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of ascertaining the position of the pair of overlapped shapes ascertains the position in two dimensions simultaneously.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of calculating a level of misalignment in both dimensions.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of calculating a level of misalignment comprises determining an integer number of shapes from the centerline for a first dimension and multiplying it by a resolution for the first dimension.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of calculating a level of misalignment comprises determining an integer number of shapes from the centerline for a second dimension and multiplying it by a resolution for the second dimension.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 2, specifically changing the reference pointing to D_{ref} , from “76” to “70” to correctly correspond to the description of Fig. 2 contained in the specification, as suggested the Examiner.

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 9, 10, and 11, specifically adding reference to the upper surface 102 of the overlying shapes 100 to correctly correspond to the description of Figs. 9, 10 and 11 contained in the specification. The Examiner noted that item 102 was not shown in Figs. 9 and 10. In the course of making the correction, Applicant noted that reference to upper surface 102 was also missing from Fig. 11.

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 14, on sheet 7 of 7, specifically changing “Fig. 13” to “Fig. 14”, as requested by the Examiner. It is Applicant’s understanding that this change was previously made in response to the notice to file corrected application papers, which was attached to the Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment, which was filed November 15, 2002.

Attachment:

Replacement Sheet for Sheet 2 of 7

Annotated Copy of Sheet 2 of 7

Replacement Sheet for Sheet 5 of 7

Annotated Copy of Sheet 5 of 7

Replacement Sheet for Sheet 7 of 7

Annotated Copy of Sheet 7 of 7